

makes the great empire of the State. Now, I want to be fair to my friends who are in Texas, and if it were otherwise I would tell the committee so.

Mr. RANKIN. There is one thing that the people of south Texas and the people of Florida have overlooked in their discussion of this matter and the discussion of advantage of things produced in those areas, and that is for the relief of thyroid trouble, goiter, which is caused by lack of iodine.

Mr. BOWIE. Yes.

Mr. RANKIN. There are more people die in the Great Lakes area in one year from that disease than die in Texas from goiter, typhoid, and malaria—all three.

Mr. BOWIE. Wait until the people of the North know what the vegetables grown down there will do for them.

Mr. RANKIN. If we had cheaper transportation to get these fruits and vegetables from Texas and Florida to the people in that area, it would be worth no telling how much from a health standpoint.

Mr. BOWIE. Mr. Rankin, just to show you what our efforts are along that line, I took the canning industry prior to deep-water transportation, which shows that it did not amount to very much. Two years ago we canned 7,000,000 cases, and that represents 140,000 tons of grapefruit juice, which is really nothing but concentrated sunshine, and it is being sent to the eastern seaboard at a freight rate of from \$5 to \$6 a ton; making it possible for the poorest person in New York City to partake of the wonderful life-giving fruit that we produce in Texas.

Now my friends of Florida may not like for me to talk about these grapefruit. I was over there several years ago working on a transportation problem, and I heard them talk about the danger to their industry from the Texas production, and I said this to them: "That if the people get to eating Texas grapefruit it is not going to interfere with the consumption of your own grapefruit; it is just going to make them want to eat more grapefruit"; and that is true.

Mr. GREEN. After eating Texas grapefruit it will just make them want more from Florida.

Mr. BOWIE. That is just like the boy who is always talking about the old swimming hole; and when he gets back to it he is disappointed.

Mr. RANKIN. Do not forget there is a member on this committee from California.

Mr. VOORHIS. You have not said anything about oranges.

Mr. BOWIE. Well our oranges speak for themselves.

Mr. VOORHIS. And the California ones do too.

Mr. BOWIE. But friends, our people down there today are confronted with a very serious situation. We have no steamship service. We lost that steamship service before America got into the war. One steamship company sold 13 of its ships to Brazil and had to make delivery. They were expecting to get new ships but they could not because the war prevented them getting any new ships.

The other company sold its ships to Britain, and now we have to live down in that country which produces more vegetables per acre, more per square mile, and more citrus fruit than any other quarter in the world, and yet we have to live at the mercy of the railroads.

Now to bring the matter home to this committee, so you might think of the growers in the Rio Grande Valley, let me make this